

Reflection Seventh Sunday of Easter

For the disciples the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost was one of intense prayer and waiting for the promised Holy Spirit to come. We are in the privileged position of already having the Holy Spirit with us (for almost 2,000 years now) but we too are encouraged to pray at this time: the CofE calls it 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's account of Jesus's discourse the night before he was crucified. Jesus, praying to his Father in Heaven, says that although he will no longer be in the world the disciples will remain in the world, and he asks his Father to protect them there rather than take them out of it. In fact he makes clear that he is sending his disciples into the world. Being 'in the world' can be messy, distracting, sometimes downright dangerous and always full of temptations, but it is where God wants his people to be.

When the disciples received the Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost they were driven to proclaim (loudly!) the good news of God's love and Jesus's redeeming sacrifice. They also showed God's love in practical ways: the Apostles healed and the church in Jerusalem shared what they had with eye-watering generosity towards those in need. This was a fundamental part of their lives, service and worship; Stephen, the first martyr, was one of their foodbank administrators. The account in Acts is very clear that many people came to faith through this practical action, as well as those who came to believe through the preaching.

This Sunday is the start of Christian Aid Week, which is an important time to raise funds and also to raise awareness – of what Christian Aid does, how it does it (mostly working through local partner agencies, not all of which are Christian), and of the needs that have to be addressed to advance God's Kingdom here on Earth. More information will be given on Sunday, or you can explore yourself at www.christianaid.org.uk

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden

WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL- THURSDAY 3-5PM



Free refreshments in a warm space

NEXT SUNDAY 19.05.2024 Pentecost
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Acts 2: 1-21
NT Romans 8: 22-27
GOSPEL John 15: 26-27; 16:4b-15



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

12th May 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

13 All hail the power of Jesus' name
464 Take my life and let it be
81 Christ triumphant, ever reigning

Wednesday 15th May

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 16th May

9.30 – 11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12 noon Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space

Friday 17th May

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

1 John 5: 9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 17: 6-19

Jesus said, 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Post Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in

this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder There will be a collection box in the Church on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

Summer walks Call out for help for summer project of community, reflective walks of hope! We're looking for people with IT, graphic design or project coordination skills to help produce walk leaflets and online content. Please call/text Ian's mobile, or email: jenifertuckett@gmail.com or pioneersthomas@gmail.com

Parish Website We are looking for a small team of people who would be prepared to write something occasionally for this Blog. Please speak to one of the staff team.

Electoral Roll It is now time to revise the parish electoral roll ahead of the APCM in May. Please see Carolyn Bryant if you wish to be added to the roll or if you have moved house or changed any other details in the past year. Forms will be available from Carolyn or Ian. If you have any questions please contact Carolyn after the Sunday morning service or call 07780 707183.

The APCM will take place on Sunday 26th May following the Eucharist. We are in need of a Churchwarden and there is one vacancy on the PCC. If anyone is interested in any of these important and interesting roles please speak to Ian or one of the clergy. Nomination forms will be at the back of the Church.

House Group meets on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays of each month at Helen's house. The group will be studying the Acts of the Apostles. New members are welcome. For information please see Ian or Helen.

Christian Aid Week runs from Sunday 12th-Saturday 18th May. Envelopes will be available today and can be returned next Sunday, 19th May.